

PA-1557

AZIMUTH TOWER, SOUTHERN - c. 1898 - South of the Veterans Hospital and between the road and the seawall. Brick tower, twin of one in the county park, was used as a look-out tower for ships during the Spanish American War and again during the war of 1917-18. It also served as a plotting tower to observe the floating mines laid in the channel by Fort Howard's mine crew (See The Neck, p. 29). The artillery tower was designated "M. Prime." The entire structure is covered with ivy.

Owner: U. S. Government, Veterans Administration.

Range-Finding Tower. Concrete column encased in an iron cylinder fell, but survives in the underbrush near the Quarters Building and "concrete building" listed above.

Range-Finding Tower. Foundation survives in undergrowth east of park entrance road and north of Batteries Nicholson and Stricker.

Artillery Pieces. Two 4.7 inch guns mounted on solid-rubber-tired field carriages are located in the picnic area near Battery Harris. They are marked "Watervliet Arsenal-1918". These guns are decorative rather than typical of a coastal installation.

Sea Wall. The waterfront boundary is protected by either concrete seawall or rock rip-rap, in various states of repair.

Azimuth Tower. Located on Denton Cove, well NE of the batteries is one of two azimuth towers, built of brick, that were used in plotting compass bearings on ships in the harbor entrance.

Nearby Sites on U.S. Property (Not included in nomination):

BA-1557. Azimuth Tower. This brick tower, twin of one in county park property, is located south of the hospital building, between the road and the seawall. It was used as a look-out tower for ships during the Spanish-American War in 1898 and again during the War of 1917-18. It also served as a plotting tower to observe the floating mines laid in the channel by Fort-Howard's mine crew. (The Neck, p. 29). The artillery designation for the tower was "M. Prime." The entire tower is covered with ivy.

Old North Point Lighthouse. In 1824, the U.S. Lighthouse Service built a light offshore on the east side of North Point peninsula. It was later abandoned and a pile of stones about ten feet high is still visible above water south of Battery Stricker.

Fort Howard Light. Built off the south end of North Point to replace the lighthouse of 1824, this round, red and white tower on a concrete base is variously called North Point Light, Fort Howard Light, Front Cut Off Light, and Front End Range Light. It marks the channel laid out in 1866-69 by Brigadier General William P. Craighill of the Corps of Engineers.

Torpedo or Mine Storage Building. Brick, one-storey, building on concrete foundation with corrugated iron roof (painted light blue). Seven bays long by two wide with central loading doors on south side. Corbelled brick cornices; brick jack arches over windows; granite windowsills; iron window-shutters. Chimney on west end; various metal roof ventilators. Also patterned-brick ventilators in wall just above the ground level. The mines needed to blockade the harbor entrance were stored here.

Patient's Fishing Wharf. This pier at the foot of Key Street is reserved for the hospital patients. It marks the site of the "Mine Wharf" where the explosives were loaded aboard a vessel for laying in the channel.

Notes:

1. "Fort Howard, Maryland, A Walking Tour of the Endicott Period Fortifications," Committee on Abandoned Military Posts, Arlington, Virginia, 1978, multilithed. (Copies available from Planning Office.)



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Azimuth Tower, Southern

Sparrows Point Quad, 1969, PR 1974